

do this without breaking the caps, without finding offsets, and without spending the surplus. We can do this without even going to a flat tax or consumption tax. We can do this by breaking up the electricity monopoly.

The time has come to allow greater competition in the electricity industry. Giving consumers the power, the power to choose their electric company, will lead to a more efficient and cheaper electric industry. When we deregulated trucking and the airline industry and the telephone monopoly, the average savings to the American consumer was 30 percent. We can do the same with the electricity industry.

Let us give America's consumers the power to choose, and let us do it this year.

#### WOMEN FORCIBLY STERILIZED

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a tragic story of an outrageous misuse of U.S. taxpayer dollars believed to go to foreign aid.

Recently a government campaign in the country of Peru revealed how USAID taxpayer dollars have been used over the past 2 years. What were these dollars used for, you ask: Community buildup, economic development, money to buy clean, sanitary medical conditions? No. Our taxpayer dollars have been put to use under the USAID banner for forced, mandatory, and coerced sterilization of poor Peruvian women.

Have these women chosen such paths for their reproductive futures? Have they been able to discuss options with their families and husbands? No. Without notification and without consent, U.S.-funded operatives perform these sterilizations in filthy, primitive conditions just to meet a mandated quota.

Women have been degraded. Indeed, women have died because of this policy in the name of population control, and under the guise of family planning America has exported horror to women abroad.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should end taxpayer funding of such atrocities, once and for all.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MARK ZALKIN

(Mr. RUSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life, work, soul, and spirit of a dear friend, Mark Zalkin. Mark's life was tragically cut short on Monday as he passed at the age of 49 due to complications from multiple sclerosis.

During the seventies Mark's vision for justice translated into him building and leading the 46th Ward Community Service Center, and later the Uptown

Community Service Center. He worked tirelessly to create services to Chicago's uptown neighborhood.

One of Mark's unique qualities was his steadfast belief in the wisdom and power of people. As editor of *Keep Strong Magazine* and *All Chicago City News*, and as press strategist for the late Harold Washington, the mayor of the city of Chicago, Mark always went first to people for information and to find out what was really happening. The disabled coal miner fighting for black lung benefits or the family displaced by suspected arson for profit, these were the people who Mark went to for information.

When Mark was stricken with MS, he faced life with the same quiet strength and determination he radiated all his life. My prayers go out to Mark's family, and especially to his son Brendan, who carries on his tradition and legacy as editor of Chicago's *Streetwise* newspaper.

#### TAX CUTS AND DEBT RELIEF, THE BEST CHOICES FOR USE OF THE BUDGET SURPLUS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, after nearly three decades of Washington living beyond its means, the Federal budget is projected to have a surplus next year of several billions of dollars.

So Congress has a choice. Actually, we have three choices. We can spend the surplus, we can use the surplus to start paying down the debt, or we can continue with the tax relief started last year. Guess what the liberals want to do with the surplus? You got it, they want to spend it. They want to increase the size and power of the Federal Government.

I think that is about the last thing that Washington should do with the surplus. The way I look at it, if Congress uses the surplus for tax relief, that would be great. If the surplus goes towards reducing the debt, that would be great, too. Both would represent a radical change from the way Congress has been operating in recent decades, when the other side was in the majority.

Maybe we should take tax cuts and debt relief and go 50/50. The Americans want a debate on this. They do not want us to spend the money.

#### REFORM THE IRS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, unbelievable, the IRS admits it is wrong and vows to fix it. That is right, they said no more taking of property by individual agents, only district directors of the IRS can seize your property.

How nice of those computer bullies. Think about it. Instead of getting shafted by a little guy at the IRS, you will now get shafted by a big shot at the IRS. Beam me up.

I say it is time to tell the IRS to seize this, my bill, that requires judicial consent before those backstabbing, bric-a-bracken, Constitution-bending thieves destroy any more lives in our country, and that bill should be added to the conference report of the reform bill for the IRS.

#### IN SUPPORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO

(Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROMERO-BARCELÓ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 856, a bill that provides the process of self-determination for Puerto Rico. Since we are talking about U.S. citizens, why should this bill be necessary? This bill is essential in order to validate American democratic values. It is essential because the 3,800,000 U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico have been disenfranchised and this Congress has a moral obligation to address this inequity.

In Puerto Rico, we cannot vote to elect the President of our Nation, nor do we have any voting representation in the House or the Senate. We have no control over political decisions affecting our daily lives. We cannot vote as citizens, but we are called upon to fight and die for our country as soldiers.

The U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico have been partners in war with our fellow citizens, having fought hand in hand to defend American values and democratic ideals throughout the world in every armed conflict since 1917.

Puerto Ricans have earned with their blood the right to self-determination. As the United States preaches to the world on human rights and democracy, it has forgotten 3.8 million of its own citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to support H.R. 856. It is our moral obligation and responsibility. Let the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico choose whether they want to be independent, stay as they are, or become a State. Vote in support of H.R. 856.

#### IRS REFORM

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Americans who take an increasingly cynical view of politics and politicians often claim that "politicians are all the same," and those who do not vote justify their passivity saying "it does not matter."

I respectfully disagree. Consider the proposals to reform the IRS. The Democratic Party controlled Congress for a period of 40 years, ending in 1995.